(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore released the following statement in regard to H.R. 3, the DeGette-Castle Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives earlier today by a vote of 253 to 174:

"I am so pleased that the House passed this crucial bill to expand federal funding for stem cell research. People with debilitating and life-threatening diseases have the right to medical breakthroughs and life-saving cures.

"I respectfully disagree with those who would elevate the existence of embryonic stem cells, which are already slated to be disposed of as medical waste, above the needs of human beings who are suffering and dying each day from these terrible diseases.

"The worst possible outcome of today's victory for scientific research would be for President Bush to singularly decide the fate of millions of sick and disabled by vetoing this legislation once it reaches his desk."

###